

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01450 011533Z

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCOSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1450

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG GW UR WE

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON THE FRG, BERLIN

REF: STATE 21516

1. SUMMARY. IN THE WAKE OF THE AXEN-FISCHER VISIT TO MOSCOW,
THE SOVIET PRESS LINE TOWARD THE FRG AND BERLIN SEEMS TO BE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01450 011533Z

TOUGHENING. AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY JANUARY 30, THE FIRST

SOVIET COMMENT WE HAVE SEEN ON THE EC VOCATIONAL CENTER, CRITICIZED WEST BERLIN GREEN WEEK TIES TO THE FRG AND THE EC. IT DID SO IN MEASURED TONES, HOWEVER, AND WITH ASSURANCES THAT THE SOVIET UNION "FIRMLY HOLDS" TO A POLICY OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. THE APPEARANCE OF THE IZVESTIYA PIECE JUST AFTER THE GDR VISIT STRENGTHENS THE SUPPOSITION IN REFTEL THAT THE VOCATIONAL CENTER WAS A SUBJECT OF THE BILATERAL TALKS. A SOVIET PROTEST NOW SEEMS INEVITABLE. A PRAVDA COMMENTARY JANUARY 31 ATTACHED FRG INTERFERENCE IN THE GDR-AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT AFFAIR, IMPLYING A CONNECTION BETWEEN GDR INTEREST IN ITS NEGOTIATION OFFERS OF DECEMBER AND FRG WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MATTER. RED STAR COMMENTARY JANUARY 31 LAUNCHED A VITRIOLIC ATTACH ON THE BUNDESWEHR, CALLING IT A BASTION OF FASCIST INFLUENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN IZVESTIYA JANUARY 30 SIGNED COMMENTARY, A. SVIRIN CONTENTS THAT WEST BERLIN EFFORTS TO EMPHASIZE ITS TIES WITH THE COMMON MARKET THROUGH SUCH ACTIVITIES AS THE GREEN WEEK AND ITS NEW EFFORT TO ESTABLISH AN EC VOCATIONAL CENTER IN WEST BERLIN ARE "NOTHING LESS THAN STEPS AIMED AT VIOLATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT". SVIRIN CRITICIZES KLAUS SCHUETZ FOR A STATEMENT DURING A SPEECH AT THE GREEN WEEK THAT WEST BERLIN SHOULD PLAY THE SAME ROLE IN THE EC AS "ANY OTHER WEST GERMAN ECONOMIC REGION". SVIRIN ALSO TAKES TO TASK A STATEMENT BY THE EC REPRESENTATIVE AT GREEN WEEK LADRINUA (PHONETIC) THAT THE EC REGARDS GREEN WEEK AS AN ENTERPRISE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FRG. HE CALLS THE SENAT'S PUBLICITY ABOUT THE EC'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH A VOCATIONAL CENTER IN BERLIN AN EFFORT TO JUSTIFY "BASELESS CLAIMS." SVIRIN'S TONE THROUGHOUT IS COMPARATIVELY MILD, AND HE ENDS HIS ARTICLE WITH ASSURANCES THAT THE SOVIET UNION "FIRMLY HOLDS" TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF "GOOD-NEIGHBORLY" RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. HE CALLS, HOWEVER, FOR THE WESTERN POWERS, AND ESPECIALLY THE FRG, TO OBSERVE THE SPIRIT AND LAW OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT.

3. A SIGNED COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON JANUARY 31 (YURI VORONOV) MAKES THE USUAL POINTS ON FRG RESISTANCE TO THE GDR-AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT, PLAYING UP KREISKY'S REBUTTAL AND THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRG OVER THE WISDOM OF ASSERTING ITSELF IN THE MATTER. IN HIS CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 01450 011533Z

VORONOV CALLS ATTENTION TO THE GDR'S RECENT "PROPOSALS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH THE FRG", THEN ADDS THAT "ONE CANNOT FORGET, HOWEVER, THAT CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY PRESUPPOSES MUTUAL RESPECT AND STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND AGREEMENTS."

5. A THIRD SIGNED COMMENTARY IN THE JANUARY 30-31 PRESS ON

THE FRG AND BERLIN, A PIECE BY D. UMANSKIY IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), IS ONE OF THE MOST VITRIOLIC PIECES WE HAVE SEEN RECENTLY ON THE BUNDESWEHR. THE GENERAL THEME OF THE ARTICLE IS THE CONTINUING INFLUENCE OF FASCIST TENDENCIES IN THE FRG ARMED FORCES. UMANSKIY CONTENDS, INTER ALIA, THAT THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THESE FORCES IS CAUSED BY AN ATMOSPHERE OF "DELIBERATE FALSIFICATION OF HISTORY (AND BY) JUSTIFICATION, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, OF THE CRIMES OF HITLERITE MILITARISM". THIS ATMOSPHERE, THE PRESENCE AND CONTINUED INFLUENCE OF THE "INFAMOUS LANDSMANNSCHAFTEN" AND THE "GLORIFICATION" OF THE WEHRMACHT PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF "REALISTIC" ATTITUDE BY WEST GERMAN YOUTH TOWARD THE "SOCIALIST STATES". UMANSKIY CONCLUDES THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY "STEINHOFF'S AND YEAGER'S" (TWO OF THE BUNDESWEHR OFFICERS HE USES AS EXAMPLES OF FASCIST INFLUENCE) IN THE BUNDESWEHR WHO HAVE NOT MADE PEACE WITH TODAY'S REALITIES AND WHO REJECT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

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